dials G_{30.12}

The Student Community Newspaper of George Brown College, Toronto

FEATURE

Cover: Saukrates bopped over to George Brown and during a lunch hour concert charmed the multitudes. More pix in the city page 12 Boni Barter and Paul Dowling both offer their different views on homelessness, check our feature pages 6 & 7.

Catch up on all the latest college scandals. Has our Visual Identity crisis worsened? See page 5 for all the answers.



VARSITY

Melanie Denheyer catches us up with all the latest news on varsity sports. Page 11. How about our Men's Basketball Team!

MORE

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Modeling Scam Alert

page 7

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Feature stories page 8-9

In the city page 12

elvisLOG page 14

What Price do we pay for Hunger?

by Allan Stokell

onight there are children going to bed in this city who are hungry. In this city, one of the richest in Canada and bragged as being one of the best places in the world to live, we don't care enough to make sure that children are fed.

Yes, you might say, but there are food banks. Food banks were begun to alleviate shortwere begun to alleviate short-term needs. Even today most food banks only give enough food for a three day period. How is it that we have got to the point that hunger and

homelessness exist atcrisis proportion?

I say it is the green-eyed monster called greed. Politicians promise the middle class tax

cuts without fully disclosing just

how they will save the money. Well I know how it works. Over the past fifteen years, the middle class has been slowly eroding. Some have become rich, but many have fallen off the bottom rung of the middle class ladder and into the dismal pit of poverty.

Peter is a fine example. In his

thirties he was a successful businessman. Then he had a few set backs. A tussle with Revenue Canada cleaned out most of his savings. A messy divorce took his share of the house and a bottle of gin took

the rest.

When I first met Peter a dozen years ago, he was successful and very sure of himself. Even when things began to slide, he would cockily confront his bank

manager inquiring about the state of his overdraught.

I met Peter recently. He was standing at the corner of Parliament and Queen panhandling. He did not recognize me. A combination of not really looking at people and drug induced memory loss had taken their toll.

This issue we explore the true costs of our Common Sense Revolution and how the reckless tax cuts the Tories promised have caused undue hardships for the middle class and the poor.

Premier Mike Harris will be calling an election soon, I ask you to consider the damage done by his henchmen to this city before you get out and vote.

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brown, GEORGE

"To work or not to work...that is not the question..."

Join Our Peer Program Now!

by Miriam Baichman - Coordinator Peer Programs, Student Affairs.

s we come to a close of this academic year, I would like to present some stimulating and relevant research which your Counselling Office and sign up to work in our Peer Program for the upcoming Academic year 99/2000.

Recent research has shown that working on-campus can be a very powerful retention strategy. In fact student involvement on campus is one of the top four factors listed by students as influencing their satisfaction with the collegiate experience. Students reported that on-campus work tended to provide them with a sense of belonging and a feeling of being on the inside, in "the know",

On-campus work is also a strong factor which influences future employment. Research has shown that former student workers tend to earn more money than their counterparts the first five years after graduation. On-campus employment has also been cited as a key factor in finding work. In a survey conducted at San Francisco State

University, 1996 graduates attributed job/internship/volunteer experience as an undergraduate as the number one runaway factor which helped them find post graduate employment. Work experience (54%) was rated higher than GPA (2.6%), major job search skills (3.5%), personality & skill (14.2%), choice of major (10.4%), knowing someone influential (8.3%) or other (5.9%) as having an impact on employment.

In a survey of 1200 Human Resources professionals of UPS (United Parcel Services) 94% indicated that given two applicants with equal academic qualifications, they would select the candidate with part-time work experience. The HR professionals reported that former student employees tended to produce better work, accept supervision better, demonstrate better team skills, manage their time better and have more realistic expectations.

Need we say more? Find out about a variety of positions available for the upcoming year on each campus. Come to the counselling office at Casa Loma Room C221, St James Room 578C and Nightingale Room 105 and pick up an application!

DAAlog

A semi-regular column by Stephen Flett, your DAA (Director of Academic

Affairs) at the Student Association. Or whatever random thoughts are tmeandering through Steve's head.

m I blue? You bet.
Everyone in their final semester seems to suffer from a bit of malaise as graduation approaches, and the prospects for work look slim. Just when you need to be focusing on the fast approaching "real" life, your professors pile on mounds of "busy" work. At least, that's what it seems like to many students. Or maybe I'm just being paranoid. Don't despair. The school work will be over soon. April 23rd is getting closer and closer.

How is George Brown doing compared to other colleges? Not too bad according the KPI results that I saw posted recently. GBC scored close to average on all indicators. KPI stands for Key Performance Indicators - these are used to judge college performance in several important areas, including employment rate of graduates, graduate satisfaction, employer satisfaction, and student satisfaction.

The college now has a new logo and colours, which you may have seen in their recent ad blitz on billboards and subway cards, and also in the new Con-Ed calendar. Interesting. It seems that the college chose almost the identical colours to the new Student Association logo

chosen several months ago. What does that mean? Nothing, they're just trendy colours.

Don't forget your vitamins. There seems to be an epidemic of colds and flus running rampant at the college. Many students and staff have been sick for weeks now. So remember to wash your hands. Who knows who touched that door handle before you.

Oops. There's another bug going around that you should be aware of. the college has another computer virus - a variant of the Dr. Diet Mountain Dew that infected all of GBC back in December. To check if your computer is infected, right-click on the "My Computer" icon on your desktop, and select "Properties". If the registered owner is "Dr Diet Mountain Dew" then you need to have your system cleaned. Fortunately, the latest version of the McAfee anti-virus will clean it. (However, you will still need to edit your Registry to remove all traces of the virus. Better ask a computer-literate friend to help with the registry stuff.)

Speaking of computers, I have heard from several reliable sources that the college will be improving the network lab for the Information Systems program. Excellent! A bit too late for those of us graduating next month, but definitely a big move in the right direction for improving the T-128 program.

If you'd like to discuss anything, feel free to drop in to see me at the Casa Loma SA office, send me an e-mail at sflett@gbrownc.on.ca (I LOVE e-mail), or leave me a voice-mail at 415-2900 #83221.



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diaLOG

When the 'visual identity' hits the fan

by Allan Stokell, Editor in Chief, Dialog

he Dialog Collective is the group of students who publish this paper. We have both an editorial policy and an Editorial Board who makes the final decision on what will or will not run in our paper.

Avid readers may have noticed both a letter and a story run in the last issue. It seems that the College's search for a new logo, or a 'visual identity' as they call it, may have landed some people in a lot of hot water. Or that is how it would seem from the number of 'unofficial' complaints I have received.

Apparently the logo was not designed by a George Brown College graduate. The importance of this error in judgement never even seemed to be a priority until it was brought to the attention of the brass.

I will never be made President of the College. But here are a few things I would do in the event that the Board of Governors lost their collective minds and made me President of George Brown College.

When they come to tell me that the Queen of England is touring ,I would say, "Great! Hire a George Brown College School of Hospitality grad to cater the banquet

When hiring a new instructor, I would give priority to George Brown College graduates. And when they say to me, "Let's get a new visual identity." I would say "Great! Hire a GBC School of Graphic Design grad, or even better, talk to the people at the School.."

If our own alma mater doesn't think their grads aren't the best, then who will?

Now comes the truly disappointing part. Some people working for this College are angry and upset that we broke this story. It seems to be a classic case of shoot the messenger.

Here at the Dialog we already have a guideline of only employing students. We are very proud of the volunteers who put together this paper every three weeks. These people will soon graduate and be looking for work. Wouldn't it be nice if the College thought of them?

In the last issue we also published a letter from a student asking 10 questions of school administration. We have come under considerable heat, because some people at the College say that letter was inaccurate. The writer simply asked questions. Can questions be inaccurate or only answers?

So here it is folks, we can each fight our personal battles, or instead we can choose to co-operate. I have always chosen the latter. The question I ask myself when a decision needs to be made concerning content of the Dialog is how will this help our students and can we reach consensus. Geoge Brown College students are my employer. I work for them. Who does College management think they are working for?

Please note this change

Next issue:

Job Fair

Copy Deadline:

Friday April 9@ 12 Noon



planet janet

Janet Morrison, Executive Director, George Brown College Student Association

had booked off the three days of lieu time in early-March but as of Wednesday night had no idea what I planned to do with them. After having endured a dreadful February, it seemed important almost critical - to separate myself from the organized chaos of my routine. The goal was to identify a travel destination that would facilitate enlightenment and the occurrence of an epiphany regarding my life-journey and the next steps. Weather was irrelevant (though I do think my cranium - and everyone else's - functions optimally surrounded by tropical, scenic locales). Large bodies of water are always a good thing, as are mountains and a lot of lush vegetation. Most important, however, was my intuition and the "feel" for where I was going. My gut needed to believe in the potential for thoughtful contemplation. Seem idealistic? So said the travel agent I spoke with on Thursday morning, who mumbled something about "snowball's chance in hell" and asked me to graphically define "serenity". Nonetheless (and owing in no small part to my willingness to spend lavishly), I was faced with a decision between the following

ports of call: Nassau; Florida, USA; or British Columbia, Canada. Ever the patrlot, I opted for the mountains and overcast skies of Vancouver.

I arrived in Vancouver early Thursday afternoon and celebrated my first day of freedom with a stay at the downtown Holiday Inn. This is a particularly lavish establishment with very large bathtubs - an amenity I have developed an affinity for. Later in the day and into the early evening, I walked around the city, shopped a little and spent two hours reading a particularly captivating novel dow by the beach. Friday morning, I woke, went running and headed off in my rented Pontiac Sunfire for Whistler, wherein I would face my fears and conquer my demons. Epiphany number one had struck the previous night during the most restful hours of sleep I'd enjoyed in weeks: I was going to learn how to ski, an achievement I'd aspired to for years. This endeavor was an overwhelming success: After one day of lessons and another full day of skiing on my own, I ventured up the peak chair-lift on Sunday afternoon and skied all the way down from the clear blue sky near heaven to earth - almost entirely

upright (which is to say that admittedly - some of the trip involved me riding my snowpants quickly - down the mountain!).

I accomplished everything I needed to on my all-too-brief holiday. While in Whistler, someone I hardly knew acknowledged that my last-minute decision to fly five hours westward to a city I didn't know and learn a new skill was courageous and freespirited. I like those words. I've been described as many things, but the attributes of courage and freespiritedness are central to my philosophy-of-life. In my mind, those particular adjectives conjure images of someone who is empowered, self-aware, directed by his or her values and faithful to them. I want to be all those things. I think I am all of those things. Sometimes though, it gets lost in the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life and I lose - temporarily - my bearings. I found them on my lieu days. Mission accomplished: the next phase of my life-journey is crystal clear.

letters

his is in response to
"concerned student" letter
printed in "Dialog" (30.11)
Thank you for your
comments.Over the last few
months, the College added more
than 50 new Windows NT
computer workstations to the Casa
Loma and St. James campus
OACLCs. In introducing Windows
NT, we encountered some glitches
that resulted in the NT workstations
being down for over two weeks.
We agree that the downtime was
unacceptable and apologize for the
inconvenience.

We are pleased, however, to report that these glitches have been fixed and our labs are once again fully functional. We hope that you will enjoy using these new high performance workstations.

With this expansion, we have increased the number of workstations at St. James to about 110 and to about 130 at Casa Loma. As with any large network, there may be two or three stations down at any given time

(Hardware, Software, and other unknown problems), but we do try to keep it to the minimum.

In regard to your concerns about the Internet, we experienced some difficulty in maintaining our internet connection in the St. James OACLC. After very intensive diagnostic testing, we traced the problem to a faulty network card on our main server. This, too, has now fixed and your Internet access should be once again stable and faster. Please bear in mind, however, that the Network bandwidth does have limitations, hence, the more students using the Internet at any given time, the slower the access will be.

As for your concern about Pine, we are also looking into the ways and means of either improving or replacing Pine as our student e-mail system.

We have made other improvements as well. One such improvement is the introduction of 25 workstations in each of the Casa Loma and St. James Campus Learning Resource Centres. These stations are specially customized or academic research using the internet and our CD-ROM databases. You need not look only to our OACLC's to meet your computer-based academic research

We appreciate your feedback and want you to know that we take your concerns very seriously and we are working hard to find ways of improving our services to you.

Tetsuro Saito Manager - Information Commons George Brown College

brown, GEORGE

So you want a summer job... Go for perfection

o, you just had an snowboarding, and the hottest topic of conversation with you and your buddies is the best place to spend reading week. That can only mean one thing...it's time to start thinking about...SUMMER?????? summer: or, more specifically summer employment. You see, there can be a big difference between a summer job and THE summer job...the one that leaves all your friends saying "You're gonna work where?? Wow, cool!" Here are some tips on finding that

1) Look for the job you want, and then you won't have to settle for the job you need. This could mean looking for something related to your field, or something that involves an area of special interest for you. IF you like the field you're working in, you will find that what you're doing becomes less work-like, and a lot more fun.

2) Start EARLY!! You should be thinking about your summer job by the beginning of February. businesses try and do their summer hiring as early as possible. For example, at the Muskoka Store, we have 90% of our summer staff in place by the end of February. The summer is our busiest season, and we don't have

time to hire and train people in May. This will accomplish three things, it will prevent you from having to be on the job hunt in April, when you really should be hitting the books hard: it will show a prospective employer that you're a go-getter, and, it will give you a better shot at the jobs you want. If you're content with a McJob, then wait until May. If you want to be the chief party director and beer sampler on the Love Boat, you better get cracking now, because there's probably going to be a few people interested in THAT job.

3) Personality is key. Face it, when you're young, you're not exactly chock full of valuable experience. But, the truth of the matter is that most summer jobs aren't rocket science, and experience is about third or fourth on the list of qualities that an employer will look for. If you show up to apply or interview, the number one thing that I'm judging you on is your personality. If you're friendly, polite, smiling and outgoing, I'm interested in hiring you, regardless of experience. We can teach you the necessary skills, but we can't

teach you how to have a personality. 4) Be honest. This fits in with number 3. Don't try to fool an employer, either with a doctored resume, or by assuming a Kathy Lee Gifford personality when you're applying. It will always come back to haunt you. If your resume says that you have all kinds of experience in

the area you're applying, I'm going to ask you about it, and you're going to look bad when you have no idea what you're talking about, Conversely, if you tell me that you have no experience, but you're willing to learn, I will appreciate your honesty. If you sit down for an interview, and you try to be a fabulously fake person, it will show through. Just be yourself...if THAT isn't good enough to get you through, then maybe your summer would be better spent in some self-improvement courses. And, by the way, once you've got that dream job, be even more honest. If you screw up, admit it right away. You won't be the first person to ever make a mistake, and your willingness to admit it will look good on you. Don't even THINK about stealing...vour entire future could be out in jeopardy if you do. Is it worth that risk for something that's worth a few dollars?

5) Show some initiative. Learn something about the business you're applying for. When you come in to apply or interview, show up early and have a look around. Drop something into the conversation with the employer that lets them know that you've taken some interest in the job. Make sure that you understand the qualifications that the employer is looking for. If you apply for a job as a watersports instructor at a summer camp, and you can't swim, you're going to look a little silly. BUT, if you show up to apply for the same job, and tell the employer that you've enrolled in swimming and lifeguarding classes that you will have

completed by the summer time, guess what? You just show a LOT of initiative. You may not get the job, but at least you'd have a shot. The bottom line is simple. The same

characteristics that you need to show

and maintain a good summer job are the

same characteristics that will serve you well throughout your life. That's why you take a summer job, right? To put a few bucks in your pocket, and to gain some experience. Here at the Muskoka Store, we hire over 50 summer students every year. And every year, there's a few summer employees who shine: and, bug surprise: They're inevitably the ones that come back a couple of years later telling us how they've graduated and they're now working in the careers they always wanted: But, they also tell us that the most fun they ever had was the summer they worked at the store. Was it because of us? Or was it because they made the most of their opportunity? You figure it out But don't take too long doing it, because if you do, someone will scoop that dream summer job that YOU always wanted! Chris Tessaro is the Human Resource Co-Ordinator at the Muskoka Store on Highway 11 in Gravenhurst. Every summer, the Muskoka Store hires 50-60 College and university students as summer help. The Muskoka Store is now hiring their summer staff for 1999.

fortUNES

ARIES (March 20-April 19)

I'm thinking of someone you know. They are taller than you, with deep eyes and a powerful brain. Ask them to be your mentor. The wisdom of their years can be shared. This will be an experience you will remember always.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Love lasts an eternity, sex for a brief few fleeting minutes. Are you gratified by a brief intense encounter? Stop watching the clock while you are making love. Love lasts forever, sex for a few fleeting minutes. Wear a love glove.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your granny is kinda pissed off! What have you been doing? Don't go through her drawers. They contain memories not to be shared. Take her for a walk in the sunshine. Tell her you love her.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

We sit in the brilliant spring light at Stonehenge. Our eyes meet. ZOOM CLICK. We have locked in, but for what? His breath smells of decay. You don't believe the Bleaker people. Is this just a communal calendar? Lay back, take a deep breath. Listen for further instructions.

LEO (July 23-August 22)

You are inside a wooden box. There is a muffled sound of people talking. You hear an organ and the sound of singing. Suddenly it comes to you. This may not have been a very good day, but it might be your last. But hark, the priest is saying that you shall not die but have everlasting life. Shit! Here comes that damn Everready bunny! You awake in a sweat, bolt upright.

VIRGO (August 23-Sept 22)

When last we met, it was upon Ilkley Moor, Wolfe the dauntless hero came, SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 20)

and did those feet in ancient times come Learn QuarkXPress and do your nails, riding, riding? The poet in you atrophies. Words are expelled from your TXT maker without copyright or trademark. Oooh, I think you stepped in an apostrophe.

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22)

Why do you hang around with those grunts? Get a hair cut that makes you look sexy and kiss off the nose ring. Jump up Latin and hit the Highlife. Wait a second...what are you doing reading someone else's fortune? Everything I write for you is "personal and confidential."

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21)

You weren't born rich but there is no doubt you will die in that state. Spend your money while you still can enjoy it. Travel to Provence in the spring, then head on to Venice. Get a haircut.

Lot's of people will be looking over your shoulder and personal grooming does count. Stop buying the nip of vodka at lunch; plan something else for the

CAPRICORN (Dec 21-Jan 19)

We stood eye to eye, death and me. She poked be in the ribs, I slashed at the spiff in her jaw. You're safe for today but I'm not sure about tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18)

How often have you felt for that thing in your pocket today? You're fixating on it, Greek men have worry beads, you have that thing. Yuck!

PISCES (Feb 19-March 19)

You've been fantasizing about sex haven't you? I can tell from the glow on your cheeks and the sweat on your palm. Release all that tension, you're a mess!

The Modelling Scam

By Notan young

odelling scammer s prey on young of high school or college age and their parents. The girls are "discovered" by avaricious "agents" of bogus modelling businesses. They are told they have what it takes to succeed in the glamorous, highly-paid world of modelling. All they need do is ask their parents to attend a meeting to discuss their future. These meetings, which can be one on-one, or more public, (if enough pigeons have been gathered for the kill,) features a "closer", who implies that parents who truly love their beautiful and talented daughters, would allow them to pursue their true potential. Sometimes the child is encouraged to apply pressure on the parents in the same manner.

The payoff for the scammers comes when the parents capitulate. The agency informs them that their aspiring star absolutely needs a basic portfolio of photographs, prepared by a professional photographer. And wouldn't you know it, these helpful hustlers can set this up, for a fee of course. There's also a makeup or makeover session, for another fee, and perhaps expensive "modelling school"

courses and lessons.

A variant of this swindle is the "modelling magazine" scam. Aspiring models, and parents, are invited to symposiums where they are requested to submit personal information, and be evaluated by people trained to spot future Cindy Crawfords. The chosen few are allowed to place photos in the "magazine", for a fee. But only, after a professional photography shoot is arranged, for another fee. The magazine is printed and sent to modelling agencies that scan and select their next Claudia Schiffer. Or so the story goes. Unfortunately, the truth is, agencies immediately file these unwanted, unsolicited magazines in the circular "G" file. Plus, oddly enough in both

versions the "chosen few" consists of everyone. There are no rejects. Tall, short, thin, plump, pretty, plain, everyone gets the call, and invitation to participate (for a fee, of course). I met one parent, (her daughter appeared unsuitable, to even my untrained eve) whose income was minimal, and had planned to take loans for photos. makeup sessions, and tuition. Why? To give her child a better life than she had.

Models, according to the Elenor Fulcher International Agency website, have basic physical requirements. These

- ➤ Typically a female fashion model is 5'8" to 5'11" tall, size 4-7, and approximately 13-25 years old.
- ➤ Petites are generally 5'4" to 5"7", age 13-25, and used in fashion and commercial print catalogs.
- > Commercial models can be of any age and size and have more of a "real people" look.
- ➤ All of the above should be fit, have clear skin, healthy hair and straight teeth.

Be careful, check backgrounds of agencies, and remember con artists constantly manipulate our emotions using phrases like 'you're exactly what we're looking for", "we guarantee you work", and "our classes are full, but if you sigh up now we can squeeze you in."

And above all remember: Don't get taken!

Nolan Young is a private investigator with Bay Street Investigation, and also a fraud consultant to Paymaster Corp. He can be reached at 593-8444.

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HOMELESSNESS:

Two writers explore one to

Not a disaster...a disgrace!

y Boni

ack Layton wants to have the homelessness problem in Toronto declared "a national disaster." I really like Jack, but like most underdog politicians he is big on thetoric and short on solutions.

Now, having a hundred thousand homeless people in Metro Toronto is certainly a bigger disaster than any of the natural catastrophes that have occurred in the last 50 years, however, this is entirely a man-made problem and a solvable one.

Opening up the armories for people to sleep in may be an emergency precaution but it is certainly far from any form of solution. It seems like another ruse to give the Ontario and municipal governments another public relations coup while still not providing any permanent resolution. It forces the federal government to take on a complex problem that has been created by the arrogance and greed of the so-called wealthiest province in the country.

The reasons that many folks prefer to sleep on heating grates rather than in shelters are simple. Warehousing people is dangerous. Belongings are stolen and passive residents are frequently attacked by more violent ones. It does not take Sigmund Freud to figure out that if you put ninety or more stressed out, undernourished, sleep-deprived people in a overcrowded facility with an overworked, under-trained skeleton staff you are begging for trouble.

The overused excuse is that there is not enough new housing stock to house the homeless is only so much horse manure. The last time there was a "housing crunch" I was the Security Supervisor for a particular condominium building. Many of the rental units were VACANT, Why? Because they were too expensive for families on welfare, unemployment or employed at less than \$60,000/year. The rents were between 1,200-1,600 per month. There was no real housing crisis for those able to pay huge rents (still isn't-in fact, check out the "Renter's News", in that league renters are often offered a month or two free rent on a year's lease).

Since the real estate market was, and is, booming, I think we can fairly make the assumption that most people in that price range can afford to buy housing stock outright. Consequently, they move out of their rental units. Given the market it is obvious that such families are doing so.

So let us move away from the notion that there are no rental units—there are a great many more than anyone wants about the amount of empty store fronts that seem to be proliferating everywhere, empty mall space, warehouses. business spaces. government buildings etc. All of these come equipped with sewer, water, hydro and some form of heating. It would be much cheaper to convert these buildings than build new housing. Yet landlords will let them sit vacant and use them for tax write-offs rather than rent them out. This is also a flaw with government policy. There could be better tax advantages and subsidies to landlords willing to convert and use those units as rentgeared-to-income stock.

Following the above, the government could force all landlords, who now can raise the price to new renters as high as they choose, to give 10% of their buildings up (if they have more than 10

units) as rent-geared-to-income for families earning under \$40,000/year. Tax incentives and subsidies could help here as well. Of course, no government wants to incur the wrath of the almighty landlords by doing this.

Add to the mixture that in Mr. Tom Jakobec's riding it is unlawful to have a basement apartment even though many of the middle class residents would like the extra income providing what the city is claiming to be so desperately in need of. Mr' J's complaint is that there wouldn't be enough "parking". How many lowincome renters does he think actually own a vehicle? This is a glaringly obvious case of the "Not In My Backyard" syndrome of wanting to ghettoize low-income renters. Whether he likes it or not, this is now a "megacity" with a catastrophic homelessness problem and one riding should not be allowed to sluff off its share of the responsibility so easily.

Why is it that in the 1950's, who Israel didn't have a pot to piddle i they were able to house admirably th thousands and thousands of refuger who flooded into the country ever month while still fighting off Ara intervention yet Canada with a va wealth of resources available cannot? I'm sure at least some of the suggestions could be workab solutions if the entire government ever decides to stop slapping bandaids over gaping wounds. It's time the federal, provincial and city governments got serious and started doing some surgery.







A National Disaster!

pic from different angles...

Homelessness is now normal!

Paul Dowling

n any walk through the streets of Toronto, you can expect to be asked for spare change several times. You also can expect times with times and times are the visible signs of poverty and melessness on the street. People eping in doorways or on the heating tes. People lining

up for food from the religious folks in the park, willing to take a small helping of salvation along with a bowl of soup or a sandwich. Women and young men selling their bodies in the alleyways.

In January, the Mayor's Action Task Force on Homelessness chaired by United Way President Anne Golden, released its report. After a year of research and consultation, the Task Force has lots of statistics:

>26,000 people used hostels in 1996, 3200 in any night whe fastest growing groups of hostel users are young people under 18 and families with children.

> there were 5300 homeless children in 1996

-more than 100,000 people are waiting for assisted

housing; including 31,000 children

➤37% of children under 12 in Toronto live in poverty.

On February 24th the Daily Bread Food Bank marked its fifteenth Anniversary by releasing a report called Still Hungry After all These Years. Again, the statistics are there:

➤in 1987, there were 20,000 people using the Food Bank, increasing to 53,000 in 1998
➤-the Food Bank distributed 127,000 pounds of food in 1984 and 12 million pounds in 1999

The most surprising thing about these reports is that we are not surprised... or alarmed. This is normal. Poverty and homelessness are all around us, the reality is well known. And yet, it is all quite normal. When we hear that there is going to be a big food drive at Easter because the Food Bank has empty shelves, we are not surprised; there is always a food drive at Easter(and Thanksgiving and Christmas). When we attend a dance or other social event, we are not at all surprised to be asked to bring a can or a box for the food bank; it is quite normal.

When we hear that a homeless person has frozen to death on our streets, we are saddened and upset, but we are not surprised; people freeze to death on the streets of Toronto every winter; it is quite normal.

The Golden Report stated that the responsibility for finding long term permanent solutions to homelessness is shared by all of us, including all three levels of government: Municipal, Provincial and Federal. The report says that the costs of implementing solutions are affordable. In its 105 recommendations the Golden Report outlines specific actions that can be undertaken by three levels of government, that will have a real impact on homelessness in Toronto.

On February 16th Canada's Finance Minister, Paul Martin released the Federal Budget outlining how the Government of Canada will spend our money now that the deficit is under control. No money is specifically targeted to addressing homelessness or hunger in Canada. On hearing the budget, Ontario Premier Mike Harris said that, in light of the fact that the Federal Government is not spending any money to respond to homelessness, he will need to reconsider whether his government will do anything

We are not surprised. It is quite normal.

Homelessness and hunger don't just happen. The increase in poverty, hunger and homelessness in Toronto can be directly traced to the decisions of the government of Ontario and of Canada. Both levels of Government decided earlier in the 1990's that they would not spend our money on the production of affordable housing. No new subsidized housing has been built since 1995.

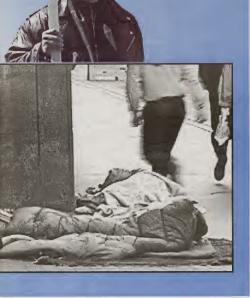
At the same time, both governments have reduced or eliminated the supports that are provided to low income people. Welfare rates were cut by 21%, rules were changed to make it harder to get on welfare and easier to get out off. Special programs like first and last months rent have been eliminated. The new Tenant Protection Act reduces the protection available to tenants against unbearable rent increases and arbitrary evictions.

Reports, like that by the Golden Task Force, identify government policy as a factor in the increase in poverty, homelessness and hunger. And still the government continues with its policy of cutting social programs in the name of deficit cutting and reducing taxes. It's not surprising; it is quite normal.

We expect to see an election called in Ontario soon. Maybe homelessness, poverty and hunger will be issues in the election. Maybe a party will run on a platform of ensuring that every citizen of Ontario has a decent place to live and has enough to eat. Maybe a political leader will stand up and promise that, if elected, she or he will take immediate steps to eliminate homelessness, to close down the food banks, to turn our places of worship into places of worship rather than emergency shelters and to put an end to child poverty in Ontario. And maybe that political leader will receive the overwhelming support of voters and, once elected, will carry out the promises made in the campaign.

That would be surprising. It is not

Paul Dowling has worked as a housing policy advisor for many years and and was formerly the Executive Director of an organization that provided homes for people who have experienced chronic homelessness. He is currently a consultant on Housing and Social Policy. He can be reached at 698-8425 or pdowling@idirect.com



Scholarship Scam

VANCOUVER (CUP)

ix-figure salaries, trips to Cancun and glamorous conventions with paid speeches from Hollywood actors do not fit the description of most non-profit organizations.

But the Golden Key Honor Society, an Atlanta-based non-profit organization that boasts the membership of several Canadian universities, is one exception.

The organization promises scholarships and contacts to high academic achievers to its 271 affiliates, including the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, McGill University, McMaster University and the University of Alberta

The University of British Columbia joined the society last fall partly on the urging of its president, Martha Piper, who sent letters endorsing the organization to about 3,200 of the school's top students.

More than 800 students paid \$80 each _ for a total of \$64,000 _ to join the society that according to Golden Key literature is associated with the likes of U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel and American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole. But questions are being raised about whether the Golden Key Honor Society is as good as it sounds.

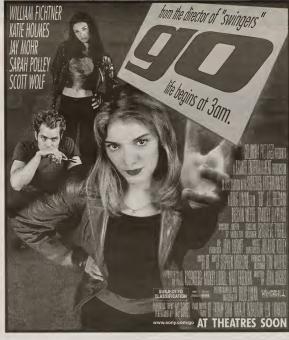
The organization's submission to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, obtained by a student paper, shows it spent just \$289,461 US on scholarships, or less than five per cent of its total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997.

And according to the Atlanta Better Business Bureau, Golden Key has refused to provide it with its financial

Valerie Maclean, general manager of the Vancouver Better Business Bureau, says withholding such information is highly unusual for nonprofit organizations. She and the president of UBC's Golden Key chapter, Fahreen Dossa, have also expressed concern over the society's spending practices. Dossa said she had expected scholarships would account for around 60 per cent of the organization's total expenditures. She also pointed to the high salaries paid to Golden Key directors. The organization spent \$1,822,837 US on salaries and other employee benefits in 1997 and its executive director, James Lewis, received \$247,600 US.

But Golden Key's representative in Vancouver feels that Lewis' salary is not extraordinary.

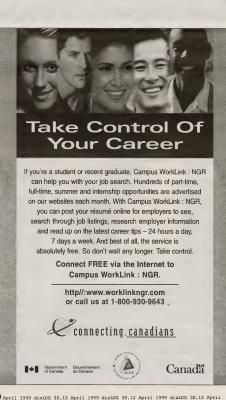
Kari Sivam, a former UBC student who is now Golden Key's Assistant Director of International Development, said that a recent study of for-profit as



well as non-profit organizations revealed that the average salary of a chief executive officer in the US is \$225,000. "(Mr. Lewis') salary is reviewed annually by the Board of Directors," said Sivam. The organization's board of directors is made up of university professors who are not paid for serving Golden Key. While Golden Key spends a lot of money on salaries, it spends even more on conferences and initiation ceremonies. More than half of the organization's budget is spent on these ceremonies. Golden Key directors were unavailable for comment. Despite her concerns. however, Dossa says UBC students are not being bilked of their money.

"On the one hand, you can say that UBC students got ripped off," she said. "On the other hand, it (joining the organization) wasn't forced or highly recommended."

Aside from Piper's letter, some students were encouraged to join the organization by a member of the university's awards and financial aid office who recruited the first few students after being approached by Golden Key. Carol Gibson, director of the university's awards and financial aid, says the committee charged with looking into whether to join the organization reviewed all information available about Golden Key. "Certainly the claims that they have made to what the money is used for are up front" she said



sports

INDOOR SOCCER

he Men's and Women's soccer teams kicked off the Regional Tournament at Centennial College for a chance at the OCAA Championships. The Men had a strong performance but were unable to qualify with 1 win, 1 loss and 1 tie. Scores were GBC vs. Canadore, 5-1; GBC vs. Conestoga, 2-4; and GBC vs. Centennial, 2-2. The Men's squad is already preparing for the outdoor season and is ready to take the opposition by storm come September. Join the varsity players as they play Pick-Up Soccer every Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the St. James Campus Gymnasium. All are welcome, so come on out and show your stuff!

The women have set out to repeat as OCAA Indoor Champs as they qualified for this weekends showdown in Nipissing, North bay. The Women left the Regional Tournament with 1 win, 1 tie and 1 loss. Scores were GBC vs. Conestoga, 1-2; GBC vs. Centennial, 1-1; and GBC vs. Canadore, 2-1. Best of luck to the Lady Huskies as they try to strike the ball in the back of the net at the OCAA Indoor Championships.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Huskies put it all on the line at Mohawk College when they tipped off against Alqonquin in the 1st round of playoffs. The Men had an unbelievable season, going undefeated in the East Division, 12-0. The Huskies kept the game close but were unable to pull through, losing to Alqonquin, 76-71. It was a hard fought match with some unlucky breaks along the way. Congratulations to the Men's squad for a great season. GBC has set the tone for next year and is ready to take on any team who wants a shot at them. As well, George Brown is proud to be represented by Willie Delas who was announced OCAA Coach of the Year!

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Lady Huskies squeaked by the regular season, qualifying for the quarter finals. They tipped off against Mohawk College for an opportunity to appear at the OCAA Final Four. The Women put forth a great effort and were down by only 6 points with 2 minutes to go. However, the Husky squad had to work against Mohawk's huge home court advantage. The Ladies kept it close down the stretch but were just unable to shake off the competition. The final score was 56-49. The Women look forward to next year, as some new faces are expected to join the line-up.

Congratulations to Fred Pourzaniani who was awarded Male Athlete Of The Month for his 1st place performance at the Regional Tournament. The duo of Sarah Devoe and Lisa Nguyen were awarded Female Athletes Of The Month for their 2nd place effort.

GBC CHEER AND DANCE

The GBC Cheer and Dance squad traveled to Mohawk College for the Men's OCAA B-Ball Championships. James Williams and Asra Rana put on a great show, pumping up the crowd and adding to the excitement of the whole event. Great job Huskies!

TALENT TREK

Become involved, see the talent, make yourself eligible for a door prize! On Tuesday March 30th, the Athletics Department and Student Association presents Talent Trek '99. So check out the diverse talent that roams the halls of George Brown College. There's bound to be something for everyone. Admission is \$1.00 or a non-perishable food item. This is an event you don't want to miss!

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For Your Information

by Bill Reid

ecently, a friend of mine who works as an account officer at the main branch of one of the major banks-a friend who at any other time. especially when his employer has announced another round of recordbreaking profits, complains about being overworked and underpaid-called me to spread his jubilation at having received a promotion. Apparently, a position had become available in another department of the branch, and his talents (in his own mind considerable) had been recognized. He would now be working a full twenty metres from where he had previously been working, for a salary which was not much higher but was, in the bank's convoluted compensation scheme, in a salary "band" that promised him greater future advancement and was shared by people he considered more his equals.

My friend told me how he had called his mother to tell her (had he called her to tell her of his affair with a married fellow employee?), how she had cried (as she might also have done if she'd heard about the affair), and most significantly, how he had begun his illustrious career cleaning toilets!

Since hearing my friend gloat about what he perceived to be his spectacular climb from the lowly task of cleaning toilets to an elevated position with lots of responsibility and authority (to do what? refuse loans?), I've thought a lot about his perceptions of himself and others. My first real job was working maintenance in a department store, which included cleaning toilets in both men's and women's washrooms and a bunch of other stuff that apparently doesn't visualize like cleaning toilets, but I rarely have occasion to mention it. Why would I? There was nothing wrong with that job, and I'd go back to it today without shame if circumstances required. What do I do

today (and what does my friend do, for that matter) that juxtaposes sodramatically with more menial forms of work?

A woman I know worked in Switzerland one summer, in part to experience the glamour of the European way of life. Her glamorous job was in a small hotel, and her daily chores included cleaning 70 toilets...and all the doorknobs...and the floors...and the ceilings...and the street in front of the hotel, the last apparently some sort of municipal requirement. Now, she got a taste of what a cleaning job is all about! I would speculate that cleaning the ceilings was the high point of her workday in more senses than the literal, because it was the only part of it she spent off her knees. However, she doesn't go around bragging about the 70 toilets and the street thing every time she scores a professional achievement today, although she has scored many. At the same time, she thoroughly enjoyed her Swiss experience, and figures it gave her an introduction to real life that serves her well in everything else she does, and reminds her that she can always return to that sort of work without worrying that her bones or her ego are too frail for it.z

I hope my friend at the bank enjoys his new position. I'll bet in the long run he doesn't consider it as magnificent as when he first got if. In any event, he's in o position to look down on anyone else who performs an honest joh, or who wants to and is unable to find one, although he clearly does just that. I don't personally think he's come as far as he thinks he has. Is he really making as valuable and genuine a contribution to society as the person who cleans the toilets in his office building? Maybe he should look for a chance to clean a few toilets, just to make sure.

Work with me here. The YMCA of Greater Toronto is hiring Senior Staff for many of its Summer Day Camps. Interested applicants living in the CTA for the summer are invited to fax or mail their resume and cover letter with current phone number to: YMCA Summer Camps, 42 Charles St. E. Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1T4 fax: 416-928-2030 YMCA DAY CAMPS WE FIND THE 'MA' IN EVERY CHILD

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o, this is possibly our last column for Dialog.I hate quitters, but I've been pouring out my guts for so long and I think it's finally time to head back to TO and give up this Elvis search thing. Festis just ain't as much fun as he used to be and I think his body odor problem stems from a festering sore that really needs some antibiotics.

Now I've been thinking about my biological clock a lot recently. Mine is a bit different in that it is analog and has an old fashioned alarm. When bells go off, I know that means something.

Let me ramble for just a bit.

I was reading about the Millennium and how lots of people wanted Millennium babies, so I hit the net and guess what? You better start grunting because If you want a bouncing bundle of baby (BBB)

there are a few magic dates to remember. If you count back the exact gestation date from December 31st, 1999, you get April 9. That means I got to get back to TO and get my legs in the air by April 9th!

Now keeping this in mind, I gotta find someone who at least looks like Elvis and I figure that the best place to find them is on April 2nd outside Maple Leaf Gardens.

You see, on April 2nd, 1957, Elvis gave the performance of his life to a packed and noisy Maple Leaf Gardens. Ever since then on the anniversary of the occasion. multitudes have flocked to this Elvis shrine to see if the king will appear. One year a bunch of teenage girls claimed they saw Elvis in the sky over the gardens. The following year there were 500 thousand people there to see the vision of the King. The numbers have dropped off a bit in the last few years but I figure that is the place to be if I want to be receiving a

conceiving. See you there. I'll be the one carrying the Elvis bust.



NEW PUB MANAGER

If you are a regular at the Student Association offices, you are bound to know Helena Miekus. Helena has been the heart, soul and brains behind much of the success of the volunteer and coop programmes at the SA offices. As Office Manager she has often been the first person a new student sees when they visit the SA offices at St. James Campus. Helena has just been appointed

as interim Pub Manager. This means she will be responsible for the running of the student pubs for the remainder of the year. "This is an exciting new challenge and I warmly invite all GBC students to join us at one of the pubs to let us know how we can make improvements," says Helena. Already planning is under way for next year, so if your club, group or organization would like to sponsor a pub night (such as the Dialog Beer Tasting Contest) contact Helena at 415-

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